

# THE SHAKERITE

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FRESHMAN NAOMI HILL delivers a pie to the face of science teacher David Klapholz after winning the Class of 2013's charity raffle. A crowd gathered in the courtyard after school March 12 to cheer on all three winners; sophomore Ian Mercer and junior David Neary also launched pies at faculty targets.

## TAKE THAT!

- Students delighted in throwing pies at faculty while raising money for Haitian earthquake relief. See page 7 for the messy details.



## ART FAIR 2010 MOVES TO SHAKER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Prepare for a trek to the Shaker Heights Main Library if you plan on visiting the Art Department's annual Art Fair this year. Rather than staging a six-hour carnival of student artwork including ceramics, jewelry and fine arts during one school day in early May, Art Department Chairman Dan Whitely opted for a more professional setting at the main library, which recently renovated its second floor into gallery space. "It will really show off the curriculum and the different [art] disciplines," Whitely said. Art students' works will be displayed in the gallery space during Shaker Fest, May 14-28.

DANA FINLEY



Dana Finley•The Shakerite  
ART FROM PAST Art Fairs at the high school can be viewed on the walls of the senior lounge and the cafeteria.

## BRIEFS

### WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS IN THE WORKS FOR SHHS LIBRARY

Wireless Internet will soon be available in the library – but not for everyone. The high school will restrict wireless Internet access to six net books. School administrators will have the ability to connect, but students with their own devices will not be able to access the wireless system. In addition, the proposed wireless Internet system will only be accessible in the library, reportedly due to the thickness of the walls in the school. Asked whether the wireless connectivity is a good idea, junior Baleigh Breaux said, "I think the addition of wireless is good, but it's not fair that use is limited to teachers. Students should have the same privileges."

Adam Schiller

### IMAGINE SHAKER RESULTS IN

More than 900 Shaker residents were interviewed for Imagine Shaker, the district initiative that sought opinions of the schools for improvement in the future. Representatives from Imagine Shaker met March 15 to conclude the interview phase and reflect on the results gathered. Dr. Ronald E. Fry of Case Western Reserve University led this presentation.

Fry said that respondents praised Shaker's diversity, good reputation and extra-curricular activities. Shaker residents were concerned about educational quality, the achievement gap and community involvement. Interviewees were impressed by student graduation rates, but said that the schools needed to improve student behavior, increase parental involvement and encourage mingling between students of different races.

Some residents thought the program underrepresented African Americans because only 24 percent of interviewees were black, while more than 50 percent of the student body is African-American.

Erin Cullen

# VOTERS TO DECIDE ON 9.9 MILL LEVY MAY 4

BY LAYNE SIMS  
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

The upheaval of the global financial system has impacted families, businesses and governments far and wide, and the school district is scrambling to fix the resulting holes in its budget.

As the state budget shrank during the recession, school budgets have also suffered. In addition, costs for things such as fuel, energy and health care have risen sharply. The district announced on its website that a 9.9-mill operating levy, originally scheduled for last year, would be placed on this year's May 4 ballot.

This levy will cost Shaker homeowners an extra 99-cent tax per \$100 of their home's market value, in addition to the 99-cent tax per \$100 already in place.

Urgency about the levy is greater than usual because the state budget crisis may delay funding to school districts.

Without levy revenue or state funding, the school district budget would go into deficit.

According to the school board, failure to pass the levy would force the cutting of 80 staff positions (mostly teachers) and numerous programs, including extra-curricular activities.

To save millions of dollars, the district has cut administrative and support staff, reduced health insurance costs and reduced or frozen teacher pay in 2009 to the point that it's now behind Solon's, Orange's and Beachwood's staff pay.

These spending cuts allowed the levy to be postponed until now from last year.

### WHAT IS A MILL?

Contrary to popular belief among those who have never paid property taxes, a "mill" doesn't stand for a "million." Property tax rates are measured in mills, which are one tenth of a cent. To calculate property tax, the city multiplies the assessed value of a property by the number of mills and then divides by 1,000. With a 9.9 mill levy, the owner of a \$100,000 property would pay \$300 in tax yearly.

"Our district has fewer than 400 teachers. [These cuts] would be very damaging and would impact nearly every aspect of our programming," Board of Education member Freda Levenson said. "Class sizes would increase, and some offerings, services and activities would have to be eliminated." She declined to say which would be.

Levenson is cautiously optimistic that the levy will pass, and hopes that others don't take it for granted. "It is really important that [students] understand this issue and how it affects them, their schools and their community," she said.

Seniors interviewed were generally supportive of the levy and said they would vote for it. Many, however, were not fully informed about it.

"I would vote for it, if I were registered," said senior Lauren Poll. "It would be my first time voting, so I'd be kind of excited. It's so the school can get money, right?"

Senior Montrel Myrick holds a similar view. "Yeah, I'd vote for it. It seems

important. What is it?" he said. After it was explained to him, he expressed support and said that he didn't want to see important programs cut or have teachers lose jobs.

Five other school districts in the county (Garfield Heights, Lakewood, North Olmstead, North Royalton, and Solon) have placed levies on the ballot this May, ranging from 4.1 to 7.9 mills. Parma has a 5.5 mill levy on the ballot, on top of a 4.1 mill levy already passed.

The registration deadline for the May 4 primary election is April 5.

For further information, go to [www.forshakerschools.org](http://www.forshakerschools.org) or [boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.us).



Emma Bresnahan•The Shakerite

IF THE LEVY doesn't pass, the district would cut 80 employees, and classrooms next fall may be more crowded. "Our district has fewer than 400 teachers. [Cutting teachers] would impact nearly every aspect of our programming," BOE member Freda Levenson said.

# TOYOTA RECALL RATTLES STUDENTS, STAFF

BY LAYNE SIMS  
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

In the wake of recalls of millions of Toyota vehicles across the world, many Shaker students may be wondering whether their cars have been deemed defective.

The Japanese car maker is a favorite among Shaker students and staff, many of whom were alarmed by the recall. Virtually all models of Toyotas are on the recall list for at least one and up to six model years.

Toyota cars produced in 2004 through 2010 are being recalled because of reports that some cars are accelerating uncontrollably or, in the case of the popular Prius hybrid, braking incorrectly. Toyota at first blamed floor mats for causing accelerator pedals to stick, and later announced that small shims would have to be installed on the pedals to prevent friction from causing them to stick.

Junior Rosa Katz, who drives a 2007 Toyota Matrix, was anxious to discover whether her car was on the recall list. "When I heard about [the recall], I called a friend because he drives a similar [Toyota model] and I thought he'd know.

"When he didn't we searched all over the Internet what models were being recalled, and the years of the recalled vehicles," said Katz, who was relieved to discover

that the floor mat recall was only for 2009-2010 Matrixes.

Apart from regaining their image as a reliable car manufacturer, Toyota faces the daunting task of regaining the trust of their customers--and Shaker students and staff.

Guidance counselor Susan Isler said she researched the Toyota Prius for two years before replacing her 12 year-old Toyota Sienna with a 2010 Prius. "I'm very concerned at this point," Isler said of the recall. "It's really fun to drive, I like it a lot. But now I'm a little hesitant to let my kids drive it."

Student drivers such as junior Taylor Clark, who drives a RAV4, have noticed issues with their Toyota cars,, especially during the rough winter months in Cleveland.

"When there is snow on the ground, if I don't break about 15 yards from the light, I won't be able to stop. I just keep going, even though I have anti-lock brakes," Clark said.

It's unclear which Toyota customers received or will

receive letters notifying them of the recall. In a Feb. 5 press release, Toyota stated: "Owners will only receive a letter if their vehicle is involved in the recall. Upon receipt of a notification letter, owners will be asked to contact a local Toyota dealership to schedule an appointment to have their vehicle fixed."

However, it's not possible that all owner contact information in the Toyota database is accurate. Seventeen percent of Americans change their addresses every year. It has been estimated that more than 500,000 Toyota customers will not receive their recall letters.

Apparently, Clark was not affected by the recall. "I don't recall getting a letter from Toyota," he said.

However, that hasn't stopped customers such as Clark's parents from wondering if it's better to be safe than sorry and have their vehicle assessed by a dealer.

He said, "My mom wants to take it in."

### TOYOTA MODELS RECALLED

2005-2010 Avalon  
2007-2010 Camry  
2009-2010 Corolla  
2009-2010 Highlander  
2009-2010 Matrix  
2004-2010 Prius  
2009-2010 RAV4  
2008-2010 Sequoia  
2005-2010 Tacoma  
2007-2010 Tundra  
2009-2010 VENZA

For more information on recalls, visit:  
[www.toyota.com/recall](http://www.toyota.com/recall)



# CONFLICT AFTER SANKOFA LEADS TO ARREST

• As crowd disperses, confusion among security, students results in Tasing

BY DANA FINLEY  
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Those who attended the Sankofa performance Feb. 26 got more of a show than they paid for when a confrontation occurred between two Shaker students and a Shaker Heights police officer following the nearly three-hour long show.

Despite the rare decision to close school due to snow that day, the audience for the annual performance celebrating Black History Month nearly filled the 922-seat auditorium to its capacity.

When the show ended, the large crowd was reluctant to wait for rides outdoors in the severe weather, and the situation in the Large Auditorium lobby quickly became tense.

Police Officer Parker Adrine was asked to disperse the large crowd that had formed after the event. According to the report written by Adrine, a male Shaker senior in the crowd who was also a performer in the show “refused to comply with my requests to leave the building, which impeded and delayed me in my functional duties and assignment as a police officer.”

According to the report, Adrine then attempted to escort the individual from the building, during which he turned toward Adrine in an “aggressive manner.” At that time, Adrine informed the individual that he was under arrest and attempted to place him into custody, but when he began to take hold of him, he began to struggle and wrestle the officer in an attempt to escape arrest. After the struggle, the male was handcuffed—“double locked and checked,” according to the report—and placed under arrest.

The report also stated that another male Shaker

student assumed “an attack/fighting posture” toward another officer while he and other police officials were continuing to attempt to disperse the large crowd. The officer advised the juvenile that he, too, was under arrest, and the juvenile began wrestling and struggling with the officer in an attempt to resist arrest. The juvenile was handcuffed—“double locked and checked” as well—and placed under arrest after the struggle ended.

According to the same offense report, the first individual was charged with six offenses: obstruction, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, criminal trespassing, another count of disorderly conduct specifically for “fighting or threatening” and another count of resisting arrest.

Sankofa adviser Keaf Holliday was concerned that the events following the performance would overshadow the hard work of his cast. “I won’t comment on any of the more controversial things that happened. If you want a smear campaign, you have to get your story from someone else,” he said.

“I don’t want negative propaganda slamming me and Sankofa. We’ve worked too hard, we have great kids, I don’t want to be defined by two kids doing controversial stuff.”

Although the written account by Officer Adrine does not recount any use of defense mechanisms or weapons by the police, Taser probes, a spent cartridge and “afids” (confetti bearing a serial number of the Taser cartridge, allowing the unit to be traced to its owner) are listed as evidence in the report.

Rumors of students being Tased spread quickly throughout the student body following the two arrests.

“I was driving home with my friend after Sankofa, and we saw six or seven cop cars race by us towards the high school,” junior Nora Larson said. “I heard rumors that a couple of people got Tased by the police for going in locked up parts of the school. I was confused because I thought that was something the security guards would have taken care of.”

According to the incident report provided by the Shaker Heights Police Department, Officer Adrine was hired for duty at the high school for the Sankofa event.

Sankofa performer and head librarian for the production Ifeolu Claytor was surprised at the events that took place following the Friday night performance. “As a fellow cast member and a friend to the [first] individual, I felt it was ludicrous. He’s like the nicest person ever, so it was a total shocker.”

However, Claytor didn’t think that the arrest put a damper on the show that took place the next day.

“I don’t think it set a bad tone for the next day, but it definitely took away from it because [the arrested individual’s] rap was a big part of the show.”

Griffith was discouraged by the events that followed the Sankofa performance. “I feel sad for the students . . . I feel sad that it happened,” he said. “At the end of the day, it’s unfortunate that this happened.”

Physical conflicts have occurred after previous Sankofa performances. According to Griffith, conflicts between attendees of the show were more times than not between people unconnected to Shaker, which has led to promoting in-school presales prior to performances to deter outsiders from attending.

The first individual declined to discuss the incident.

## WHAT DOES TASING DO TO YOUR BODY?

Peter Boatman, a 54-year-old operations director for Pro-ject Systems, which is licensed to sell Tasers to police and military forces in the UK, has been shot more than 200 times with the device.

Tasers disable suspects by sending an electric charge into them through needle-tipped darts.

“It’s a bit like lying in bed and feeling a cramp in your leg, but it covers your whole body,” Boatman told BBC News.

“You don’t feel the probes going in. The first thing you notice is the muscles in between them spasming, and then the rest of your body seizes up. As soon as the electricity is switched off, you don’t feel anything anymore.”

A Taser is shaped like a pistol and uses compressed air to fire two darts that are connected to the handset with electric cables. When the darts hit their target, a 50,000 volt charge flows down the cable for five seconds while the target’s muscles contract uncontrollably.

BBC NEWS

As a fellow cast member and a friend to the [first] individual, I felt it was ludicrous. He’s, like, the nicest person ever, so it was a total shocker.

Ifeolu Claytor  
Sankofa performer

# Reclaiming the past to move forward

• Impressed by abundant talent, Sankofa audience may miss message

BY BRIANNA ADAMSON AND DEVIN PARRY  
STAFF REPORTERS

Sankofa, the annual student production celebrating Black History Month, boasts singing, dancing and a message.

However, some people who attended the popular performance left in awe of talent but not clear about the message. Few students interviewed the week after the Feb. 26 performance even knew the meaning of the word Sankofa.

“I think it’s a combination of African-American History Month and a talent show, but more so a talent show,” said junior Donald Johnson.

U.S. History teacher Roy Isaacs, a former co-adviser of Sankofa, explained that among the West African ethnic group Akan’s symbols is one representing Sankofa.

It depicts a bird flying forward while looking backward. The image symbolizes, “look back to your past, but know where you are now,” Isaacs said.

A more elaborate definition exists at the Oxfam website. It states, “We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward; so we understand why and how we came to be who we are today.”

In keeping with this definition, the annual performance is organized around a theme chosen to illustrate the meaning of Sankofa.

This year’s theme was “Follow Your Dreams,” and the perfor-

mance included vignettes such as a girl hoping to become a singer, an interracial couple struggling against peer pressure and a football star aspiring to attend Stanford and become a doctor.

Most students and adults interviewed quickly pointed out the remarkable Michael Jackson tribute performed by junior Hakeem Ball. And although Sankofa is intended to celebrate Black History Month, students said that performances dominated.

Principal Michael Griffith, however, said the program fulfilled both roles. “If you lose the message, the effort didn’t reach its intention. I think if people just saw a talent show this year, they missed the whole show,” said Griffith.

Hearing the message was challenging because of problems with microphones that occurred throughout the show. During numerous scenes, feedback caused loud, screechy noises that made many lines inaudible.

Sankofa has not always been the major focus of Black History Month at Shaker.

Up until about 2004, one or two accomplished African American speakers came to the high school each year during February.

“Sankofa was not what it is today; it turned into more our students rather than an outside speaker,” Griffith said. “It wasn’t near the performance it is now.”

He then added that speakers stopped once Sankofa started to expand, and that he believes students can relate more to student actors and writers than to an outside guest.

In regards to relating to their audience, Issacs believes that though teachers have tried to incorporate the history into the play, students want to show the latest styles of singing and dancing and keep their audience interested.

He said, “Students’ strength is outlook, not history.”



JUNIOR HAKEEM BALL performs a tribute to Michael Jackson during the Feb. 26 performance of Sankofa 2010. Ball’s portrayal was the talk of the show. The Sankofa theme was “Follow Your Dreams.”

Allie Levin • The Shakerite



## LACK OF UNDERSTANDING LEADS TO CANCELLED PROM

Instead of granting the request of 18-year-old Constance McMillen of Jackson, Mississippi to bring her girlfriend and wear a tuxedo to her school prom, Itawamba County School district cancelled the prom instead. McMillen received the blame for the prom's cancellation, and one student told her, "Thanks for ruining my senior year." The school board did not specifically mention McMillen's request when asked for their rationale. Rather, they cited "distractions to the educational process caused by recent events." According to Daryl Presgraves, a spokesman for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, same-sex prom dates and cross-dressing are issues that have reached many schools around the United States. Instead of Blaming McMillen, her classmates and the school system should blame themselves for letting discrimination rule over common sense.

ILANA KRAMER

## Announcers need to turn it down a notch

Good morning, Shaker! The weather today is exactly the same as it was when you walked into school an hour ago. If you've forgotten what it's like outside, please look out the window.

The weather doesn't change much from 8:05 to 9:20 a.m., but the P.A. announcers still feel the need to remind us.

The trivial facts such as weather and birthdays that are incorporated into our daily announcements are mostly pointless and distracting to the 1,800 students who are not P.A. announcers.



ILANA KRAMER

Worse yet, most teachers are startled by the booming voice of the announcer, even though some stop class five minutes early in anticipation.

The announcements drone on, teachers roll their eyes, and students try to talk over the "news."

Look, announcements are perfectly fine if they're about essential information, such as canceled club meetings or rescheduled games, or even Shaker's sports results.

On the other hand, singing happy birthday to your favorite teacher is unacceptable while I am desperately trying to solve the last equation on my math test.

And please, if you must make an announcement later during the school day, get to the point. The dramatic pauses and simulated drum rolls attached to these urgent communications are unnecessary.

So is referring to Shaker Heights High School as "Raider Castle" or "Raider Nation." Announcements should be formal -- not a big production.

We don't need to be told to do our best in order to understand whatever unrelated announcement you interrupted us for originally. And it's hardly encouraging to be told to do your best by a faceless voice while you're already trying to do your best in class.

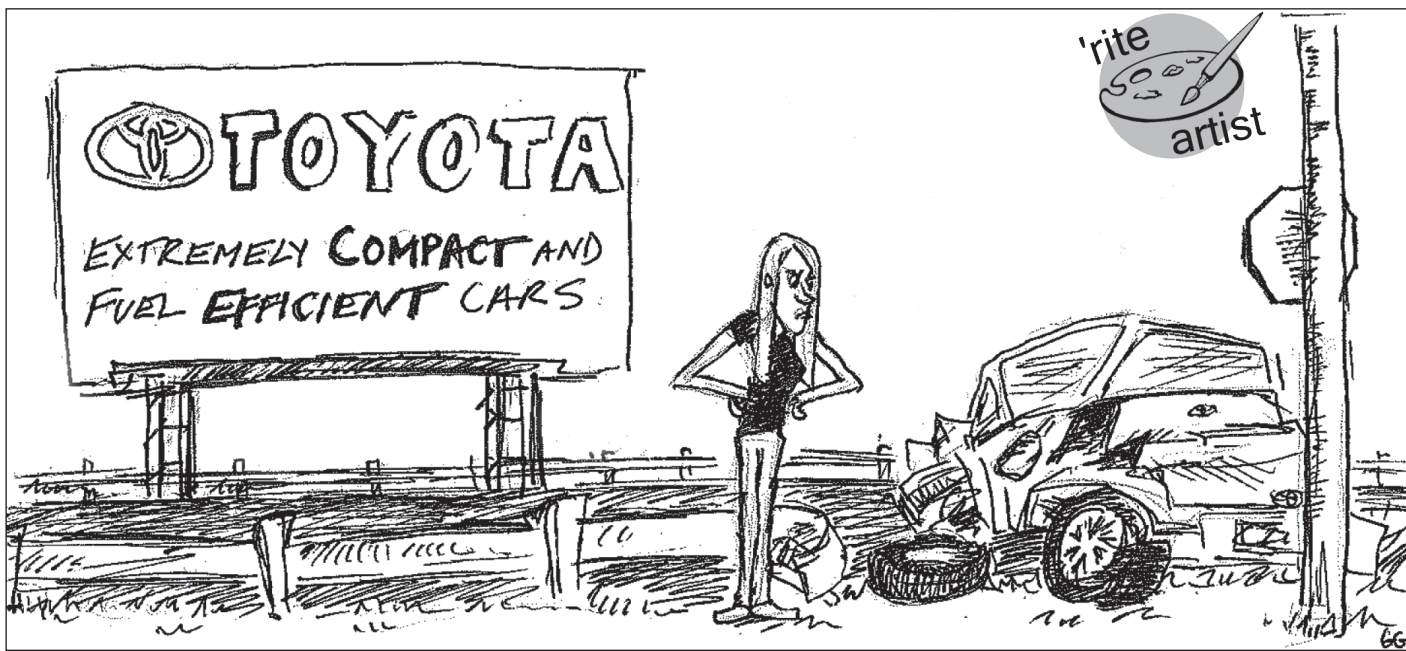
The announcements are fun for the five people making them, but there are 1,800 captive listeners on the other end of the P.A. system who have to put up with them.

So, please refrain from informing us about the weather in Paris and Venice, or how badly the teachers will lose in the student-teacher basketball game.

I realize in a busy building of 2,000 people, some announcements are inevitable.

All I'm asking is that people show some common courtesy. Instead of scaring half the school with a thunderous good morning, act as if you know you're interrupting school, and get to the point.

Show us that you didn't join the P.A. crew just to hear your own voice.



Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite

## TOYOTA ADS CAN'T CURE CARS

In a pledge to Toyota drivers, Jim Lentz, President of Toyota, stated, "More than anything, we want you to feel safe, knowing the vehicles you are driving are among the safest, most reliable in the world." Well, not exactly. After the recall, Toyota's first priority was not correcting the problems, but convincing buyers that Toyotas really aren't that bad. Toyota began a massive ad campaign, even buying an ad during the Super Bowl. By continuing sales, Toyota reinforced that its biggest concern is not consumer safety, but profit.

Drivers need to actually be safe. Actual safety comes in part from driving safe and reliable cars, one that is not about to be recalled for having dangerous features. The anxiety that has been associated with 5.5 million Toyota recalls worldwide does not create a feeling of overwhelming safety.

In the most desperate of situations, drivers should always have the option of slamming on the brakes. Toyota's faulty vehicles, whether they accelerate uncontrollably or fail to break, make that option unpredictable, if not impossible.

As worldwide sales suffered, Toyota began to offer discounts and launched an ad campaign to offset the recent drop in sales, as well as to reassure buyers of the reliability of its vehicles.

Instead of trying to convince consumers that they should still buy faulty Toyotas, the company should be using those resources to fix the cars. A multimillion dollar ad campaign may help Toyota's credibility, but it doesn't do any good for its customers. If Toyota wants to return to its former title as producer of America's top-selling cars, it needs to invest in correcting the defects and providing customers with the most reliable Toyota.

With all the money going into damage control, there should be at least as much going into addressing the problem itself. The earliest models recalled are from 2004. It took six years for Toyota to actually do something. Even then, a Toyota executive said that the prescribed repairs might not fix the unintended acceleration. Additionally, Toyota saved \$100 million by persuading the government to accept a limited recall. While that might help Toyota's bank account, it hurts Toyota's customers.

Cars should be safe and reliable. If they aren't, they shouldn't be sold as such. Toyota: stop wasting money on convincing us your cars are safe, and use that money to actually make your cars safe.



## Condom distribution story causes controversy

Dear Editor,

We are writing to you concerning several items that were untrue or misleading in the "Happy Valentine's Day, Here's Your Free Condom?" article of the February issue of The Shakerite.

Your article contained a serious factual error regarding who exactly provides the condoms. Students 4 Choice has always obtained the condoms through our partnership with the local Planned Parenthood. We have never spent money given to us by the school or P.T.O. on condoms, nor on any other distributional materials that we have used in the past. Therefore, your statements and implications that the school distrib-

letter



editor

utes condoms (i.e. "Isn't the school promoting sex by handing out condoms?")— the basis of your article— were entirely wrong.

Rather, it is the decision of our club to organize this activity, usually around Valentine's Day, and the administration has been

very helpful and cooperative. Your " 'Here, have some condoms, have a good time Friday night and thanks for stopping by' " comment was insulting to the tone and purpose of our event, treating an active attempt to educate our peers about sexuality flippantly. Students 4 Choice has always pitched the Valentine's Day event to further our mission of education about safe sex among the student body; it is not encouragement for more students to engage in sexual activities. We generally give out around 150 condoms per year, enough so that condoms are provided to those who may desire them, but it is far from the widespread distributing implied in the article. Although condoms may be our most controversial item at these annual events, we also provide educational pamphlets about a variety of sex-education topics and buttons and stickers for pro-choice supporters to display their ideological views.

Yours, Harper Sutherland & Caelyn Rosch  
Co-Presidents, Students 4 Choice



# LIKE WE NEEDED MORE PROOF

• Scrawled on her hand for all to see, Sarah Palin’s crib notes reinforce doubts about her capabilities

BY RACHEL SHAW  
SHAKER SPEAKS EDITOR

His is hopey, changey stuff may or may not be working out, but at least President Barack Obama has not yet resorted to notes written on his palm to remember the key elements of his platform.

At the Feb. 8 Tea Party convention, former Alaska governor Sarah Palin mocked Obama’s use of a teleprompter when giving speeches. Never mind that Obama is hardly the first politician to use a teleprompter.

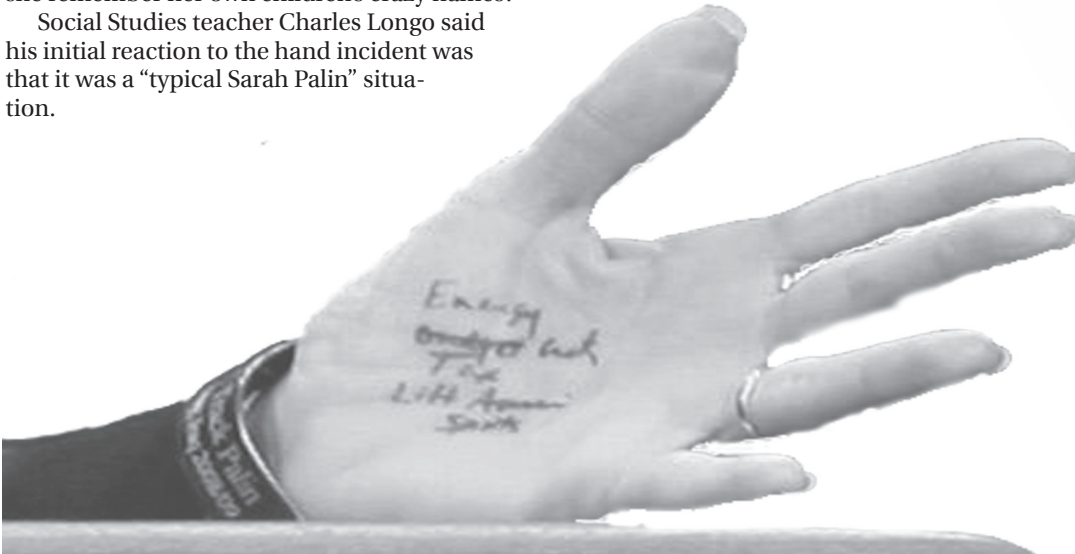
During that same speech, Sarah Palin decided to read notes she had written on her hand. She could have used an outline, index cards or yes, even a teleprompter, without asking to be ridiculed.

Everyday people do write on their hands, but they write shopping lists or other reminders - not speeches.

Worse yet, the words written on Palin’s hand did not list stage instructions or a specific quotation to include in her speech. Instead she wrote “energy,” “tax cuts” and “lift American spirit” – the main points of her platform.

The fact that she would need a cheat sheet for her own political goals is frightening reminder of her inexperience as a national level politician. At that rate, how does she remember her own children’s crazy names?

Social Studies teacher Charles Longo said his initial reaction to the hand incident was that it was a “typical Sarah Palin” situation.



media.masslive.com

While he does not fault Palin for using a reminder to remember her points, he said notes on a hand “are as crude as you can get as far as methodology.”

Palin’s methodology, however, is not as rudimentary as her geography, which Palin famously revealed during a 2008 interview with Katie Couric in which she said she was qualified to handle foreign affairs because she could see Russia from her home in Alaska.

Perhaps a map drawn on her palm would have prepared her for the interview. Longo said Palin’s list was understandable because “she wouldn’t want to look foolish again.”

And yet, despite the carefully scripted life of a politician, Palin has once again managed to capture plenty of attention for plenty of the wrong reasons.

Longo described Palin’s “hopey-changey” line as, “One of those lines that’s going to stick around.”

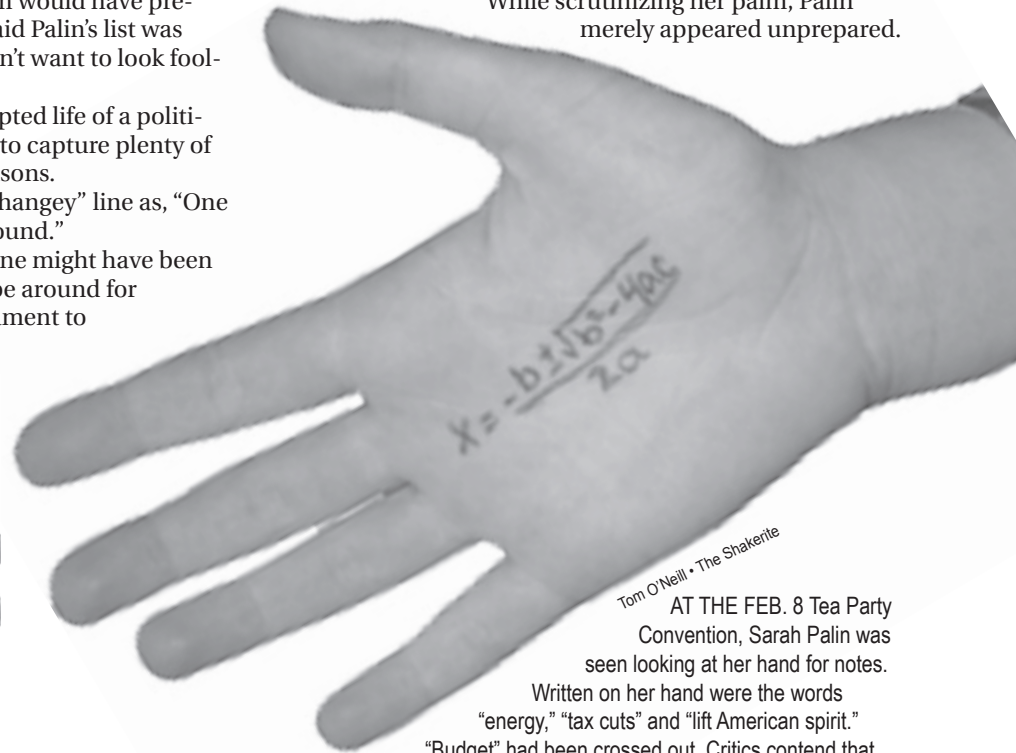
Without any other blunder, this line might have been perceived as clever. It certainly will be around for a while, but only as yet another testament to

Palin’s absurdity.

Palin has not officially announced an ambition to run for president in 2012. Should she decide to, how could America elect a president who, when under pressure, cannot even remember what is important to her?

On some level, Obama really is, as Palin said, “a charismatic guy with a teleprompter.” Still, when he reads from the teleprompter, he sounds confident and intelligent.

While scrutinizing her palm, Palin merely appeared unprepared.



Tom O'Neill • The Shakerite

AT THE FEB. 8 Tea Party Convention, Sarah Palin was seen looking at her hand for notes. Written on her hand were the words “energy,” “tax cuts” and “lift American spirit.” “Budget” had been crossed out. Critics contend that Palin’s example will provide students with a role model who inspires cheating, but students are unlikely to follow such an unsophisticated strategy.

• Palin’s cheating method of choice will not lead us astray

Politicians, especially at the national level, have advisers who help them prepare answers for every question they might face.

High school students aren’t afforded the same luxury, and past second grade, they know Palin’s “cheat sheet” would only earn a student a zero on a test.

It does seem to be an extreme view that Palin’s notes on her palm will inspire students to cheat. However, Palin seemingly fails to recognize that even before she slips and catches the media’s attention, she has a captive audience millions strong.

Those millions include countless students, many of whom see politicians as role models.

She has had previous issues with the media, but she is still making elementary mistakes. Worse, elementary school students could certainly give Palin a few pointers as to effective ways to deceive the press.

At this point, the idea of Sarah Palin as a role model or an inspiration is ludicrous.

Perhaps she was a capable Alaskan governor,

but after moving to the national stage, she failed to reach the next level of personal and political attentiveness to detail.

Young students manage to come up with creative ways to trick teachers and give their friends answers. A slew of campaign representatives should be able to accomplish what a third grader can.

By the time a student reaches high school, the creativity levels required to cheat effectively are often astounding. Teachers begin to look out to prevent cheating. Perhaps the same level of scrutiny is necessary in order to force politicians to think about the consequences of their actions.

Palin made no effort to conceal what she had written on her hand. She has previously complained about bad press, and yet was either looking for more or just not thinking about the consequences of her actions.

True, saying that Palin inspires cheating is probably quite extreme. Saying that she needs to step it up to become a capable national politician is not.



ksuradio.com

FANS OF PALIN’S folksy image emerged to declare the crib notes a stroke of political brilliance. Palin later told FOX News that her notes were a “poor man’s version of a teleprompter.” Tea Party members later used the phrase “write it on your hand” on signs directing Congress to kill the health care bill.





# SHAKER FINALIST AT STATE-WIDE POETRY COMPETITION

Most students are familiar with stage fright. Reciting a poem to a large audience would be unthinkable. Sophomore Aleksa Kaups did just that in Columbus for the Poetry Out Loud Competition. Kaups was first one of three finalists in her English classroom, then became the only school finalist to venture to the state competition, where she finished as one of six finalists. The competitors delivered two poems in two rounds, and finalists finished with one last round, reciting yet another poem which they chose themselves. "I wasn't really nervous when I was waiting to go . . . but when you're backstage and about to go, it's so nerve wracking," Kaups said. Although Kaups did not advance to the national competition, she went farther than any Shaker student has gone in the Poetry Out Loud competition.



KATIE INGLIS

Kaups

# CHECK IN WITH MGK

• 2 years after graduation, Colson Baker, AKA Machine Gun Kelly, is finding steady success in music

BY KATIE INGLIS  
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

**How was your experience in the Shaker schools?**  
"When I first came to Shaker my sophomore year, I didn't really have any friends, I was getting into fights with students and teachers, skipping school, and barely passing my classes. I was acting like an idiot for sure. But it wasn't too long after I released one of my first CDs and actually opened up to everybody that I saw there was a lot of support for me as an artist, which in turn, helped me support myself as a student because I didn't want to let those teachers who believed in me down. To this day, I throw subliminal shout-outs to Shaker in my songs, and in my last project '100 Words and Running' (which came out on 2.11.10 and received over 10,000 hits within the first 32 hours of its release) there are numerous 'odes' to Shaker on it, so I definitely support and love my school."

**What would you say was your biggest inspiration to succeed?**  
"Being a loser, that's what inspired me to succeed. In a lot of my recent records and my two upcoming singles, you'll hear me cater a LOT to the 'underdog' simply because that's exactly what I was. Don't forget, I didn't have the support then that I have now, so when word got out I was 'a rapper,' a lot of kids were laughing at me, talking down, etc. but I pushed through all of that. Now those same people call my phone and say, 'I just heard your song on the radio!' It's the year of the underdog . . . believe that."

**The Shakerite featured you in the paper two years ago. Could you tell me how your views on your music career have changed since high school?**  
"I was under different management at that time and despite how serious I took my career in high school, things became very real for me after I decided to not go the college route and pursue my music full time. I have a daughter, a [musical] team, and other responsibilities that are funded from my music, and even though I definitely do this for the love, it is also a job and my only source of income, so I've got to make sure our schedule is constantly booked with shows, our iTunes sales are constantly going up, our fan base is constantly expanding, etc."

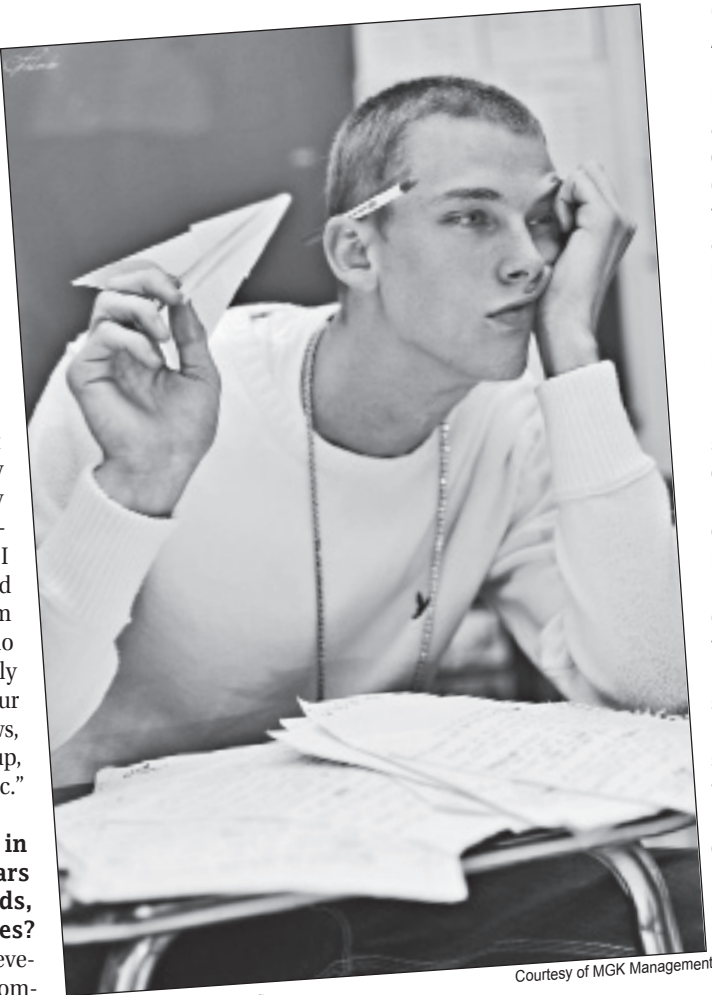
**What have you accomplished in the past two years in music, awards, and performances?**

"My greatest achievement was becoming the first rapper to ever win first place at the world famous Apollo theater in Harlem, NYC, we all remember 'Showtime at the Apollo' and 'Amateur Night at the Apollo,' and we actually won it twice! I won Best Live Performance at the 2009 Ohio Hip Hop Awards; I became LiveMixtapes.com's No. 1 Independent Artist ever on their site after only a day and a half of the Feb. 11 release of my '100 Words and Running' mixtape, which just reached 20,000 hits; and the Cleveland Cavaliers warm up to my song 'Cleveland State of Mind' at every home game in the Quicken Loans Arena."

**Would you consider the past few years a success?**  
"Definitely. One hundred percent. I have a very, very long way to go, but throughout my career there has yet to be a decline in our results. No matter how slow/fast the process is, everything is always moving up, and I plan on keeping it that way."

## Funding a teenager's music career, MGK style

- After school: "I would have to run to the Rapid station every day to make it there by 4."
- After work: "I'd catch the 19 (RTA bus) all the way up to 146th and Miles, walk six blocks over to the studio and spend \$50 per hour on studio time recording my CD."
- After studio time: "I would leave there around 12 a.m. I would make it back home to do my homework and wake up the next morning to do it again."



Courtesy of MGK Management



Courtesy of MGK Management

## Shaker Heights Teachers' Association



Professionals Dedicated to Educating Shaker's Youth





Brandon Mercer • The Shakerite

**RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS THROW PIES FOR HAITI**  
Two teachers and one assistant principal received whipped cream pies in the face March 12 during a Student Council fundraiser for Haiti earthquake relief. Students wrote teachers’ names down on tickets sold for \$1. The teachers most frequently named were pied. Eight staff members volunteered as targets but social studies teacher Paul Kelly, Assistant Principal Frank Wessinger and science teacher David Klapholz were the teachers selected. Fundraising was modest, however, despite the efforts of Freshman Student Council Representative Ifeolu A.C. Claytor. “I think that we could have raised a lot more money. I was expecting to raise more than \$50,” Claytor said.

DEVIN PARRY



# BOYS HAVE COOTIES!

• Despite potty training, common sense, boys don’t wash their hands

BY FRANCIS GOINS  
STAFF REPORTER

It was an ordinary run to the restroom during fourth period that took a turn for the worst. I walked in just as somebody was leaving a stall and headed toward the sinks. What he did next is unbelievable; he looked into the mirror, picked his teeth . . . and left without washing his hands.

Over the next week I watched as the majority of the guys I saw in the restroom did not wash their hands. What is probably more disturbing is that most boys, instead of washing their hands, did things like wipe their faces or pretend to wash their hands.

Parents and doctors preach the virtues of hand washing, but the most basic task you can do to help everyone stay healthy is, surprisingly, commonly ignored by students, or at least males. We all know not washing our hands can lead to a cold or flu, but there are more dangerous consequences of not washing up.

What’s so dangerous about not washing your hands? According to an article at WebMD.com, you can catch diseases and skin conditions such as ring worm (which is gross), salmonella (which can make you vomit or kill you) and hepatitis A (which can lead to fatal liver damage).

“Our hands are major transporters of germs and bacteria,” school nurse Paula Damm explained. “Everything we touch has tons of bacteria, which can easily spread sickness.”

Science says washing up is important -- and teachers and students agree. “It’s really important,” chemistry teacher Dr. Jeffrey Bulgrin said.

“Hands are the main way we transport our diseases. Just

look at what happened earlier this year with the flu,” junior Matthew Schultheiss said. “I think it’s very important to keep everyone from getting sick, and not doing it is just nasty.”

Another thing I noticed was that a majority of people carried laminated Shaker hall passes in the bathrooms, and some were holding them in their hands when they used the urinals. Over time, these passes must become covered in harmful bacteria, which accelerate the spread of germs all over the school when the passes return for use by the next student.

“I would like to think everyone washes their hands,” math teacher Christine McCandless said. However, she noted that handling a hall pass was not much different from other germ-heavy acts. “Everyone that uses the passes runs the same risks of grabbing the hand rail or door knob.”

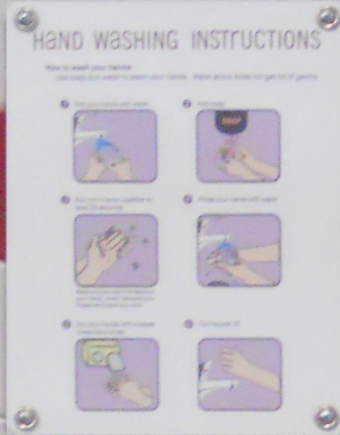
The district installed Purell dispensers throughout the building over summer break. But Purell could very well contribute to negligent hygiene. Amber Davis thinks Purell is as effective as hand washing. “I mean, it kills all the germs. I think they should put in the bathrooms, too,” Davis said.

But does Purell really exterminate germs as well as hand washing? According to Damm, the answer is no. “Purell does not have the chemicals that antibacterial soap has that break down the proteins in certain bacteria,” she said. According to a study by the University of Iowa’s Hospitals and Clinics, alcohol-based hand sanitizers are not effective against hands with visible dirt on them. The hand sanitizers are actually created to clean your hands after you sneeze, cough or touch unclean surfaces.

It seems like most people forget when to wash their hands. Common sense dictates washing them after sneezing, coughing and using the bathroom. Other times include before and after cooking and eating food, treating wounds, touching a sick person, handling garbage, playing with pets, or shaking hands with somebody (especially during flu season).

When it comes down to it, we have to look back to our parents, who first taught us hygiene. Art teacher Kathleen Fleming, the mother of two young children, takes her children’s sanitary habits seriously. “My child’s school discussed the importance of good hygiene. I reinforced the lessons at home,” Fleming said.

With all the dangers not washing your hands brings, why is a lack of hand washing still a problem? No one would shake hands or share food if they knew the other person did not wash his hands. Maybe we need to think back to our potty training days, when parents made sure we did what was right.



## Inside Locker



Ellen Holcomb • The Shakerite

Sophomore Ana Maria Boyd has locker number 216, located near the main entrance.

• **How do you feel about having locker number 216?**

“I think it’s pretty cool because it’s easy to remember my locker number.”

• **Have you been at this locker since you were a freshman?**

“Yes, it’s my one and only locker.”

• **What don’t you like about your locker?**

“It’s in a crowded hallway, so it’s hard to get to after class.”

• **What features about your locker do you enjoy?**

“The security guards and I are, like, BFFs. It is also easy to describe to people where it is.”

• **Have you had any problems with your locker so far?**

“My locker buddy next to me slams their locker closed too hard and after a while, it bent my locker in and prevented it from opening.”

• **Do you feel like you represent Cleveland with the 216 area code as your locker number?**

“My locker is pretty much the place to be, kinda like Cleveland.”

• **Is the inside of your locker messy or organized?**

“It is pretty messy, especially during lacrosse season.”

Compiled by Ellen Holcomb

Infographic by Ellen Holcomb





### STUDENTS GET SCHOOLED IN BASKETBALL

Relying on points from a rookie and a minor rule discrepancy, the staff won the annual student-faculty basketball game Mar. 19, 55-48. Science teacher William Scanlon, who organized and played in the game, knew what to expect from some of the veterans, but he was pleasantly surprised when student teacher Celia Mastroine scored six points off the bench. Scanlon remembers Mastroine worrying before her debut. "She was saying, 'Are you sure you want me to play?'" But we told her how much fun it would be, and she surprised all of us," Scanlon said. Students complained about the rule stating that they share equal playing time. Scanlon, however, made it clear that the goal of the game was to raise money for Harvest for Hunger. With player fees of \$5 and \$1 admission, the event raised almost \$500.

TOM O'NEILL



Gristmill

# BRACKETS FOR DUMMIES

Well, it's time for March Madness again, meaning college basketball greenhorns will get their Nostradamus on and fill out a tournament bracket. Little known fact about Nostradamus: he never actually won a March Madness basketball pool. There are two possible explanations for this: winning a pool is a messier crapshoot than college admissions, or the NCAA was not too popular in 16<sup>th</sup> century Europe.



TOM O'NEILL

Admittedly, a sports wonk spending every waking hour watching ESPN has a good chance of predicting results more accurately than the sixth grade Ohio Chess Champion and bed wetter Susan Smith. Once every blue moon, however, someone like little Suzy will get lucky and win the pool after correctly picking every major upset. How does she do it?

"Well, I was raised as a Christian," Suzy explained, "so there was no way I could pick the Duke Blue Devils." Furthermore, she said, "Although I wasn't quite sure what a Vermont Catamount was, I'm positive there's no way it could lose to a Syracuse Orange in a fight. And finally, I thought East Tennessee State's veteran backcourt could be difficult for an inexperienced, no matter how talented, team like Kentucky to overcome."

OK, so I guess the last one is a legitimate concern, but for those of us who spend hours online poring over stats, comparing the fast-break points of all the teams in the East region, Suzy is our worst enemy, because although we could name the starting lineup for every team in the tournament, we wouldn't be stupid enough to send Murray State to the Final Four. And yet, there stands Suzy, smugly smiling with her perfect bracket.

Because of this, I will be relying on some advice that got me through elementary school: if you want to beat

a bed wetter, you must think like the bed wetter, talk like the bed wetter, be the bed wetter. Luckily, The Shakerite collaborated with Suzy on Final Four picks.

With her incredible ability to disregard seemingly important facts such as offensive rebounding statistics, and focus instead on what team colors would coordinate better with her pink rolling backpack, Suzy works judiciously through her bracket, strictly following the formula that is sure to win the prize pot, which, combined with birthday money from grandma, should be just enough for a life-size cutout of Justin Bieber.

So this March, be like Suzy. In an unrelated note, if you do plan to follow Suzy's Final Four, be sure to join my pool, with a \$10 buy-in, because although I have not had too much luck lately, I used the extra three and a half hours of time on OGT week to memorize ESPN analyst Dick Vitale's picks. You can call me Nostradamn-goodbracketus.

SAM HOUSTON STATE

Suzy has a crush on Sam, the cute seventh grader who sits near her on the school bus.



MORGAN STATE

TEXAS CHRISTIAN



MORGAN STATE  
Suzy has the bears going to the championship game because Morgan is her best friend's name.

TENNESSEE

Suzy's cousin Tammy lives in the Volunteer state, and Suzy won her class spelling bee by spelling Tennessee.



TEXAS CHRISTIAN  
Despite not even being in the tournament, Suzy heard that TCU wears her favorite color, purple, and is named the Horned Frogs, which is a mix between Suzy's two favorite animals: the frog and the unicorn.

Compiled by Ian Round and Tom O'Neill

# Got Wheels?

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